

**AGENDA ITEM 7:            Executive Director report – November 20, 2014**

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Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

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**Executive Director Report**

November 20, 2014

Program and Project Update

**1. Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**

- **Delta Awareness Campaign** – at the last Commission meeting, I reported on the final Delta logo selection for the first phase of the Delta Awareness Campaign (previously referred to as Delta branding and marketing). Following that meeting, there were a few small changes made to the graphic, and the new final logo is presented below.

Both the Commission and Delta Conservancy are presently reviewing proposals received for the second phase of this effort (a five year marketing campaign), with a goal to award the contract soon.



2. **Delta Flood Preparedness Week and Flood Safety Fair:** As part of Delta Flood Preparedness Week (October 20-25), the Commission mailed a 2015 Delta Flood Preparedness Calendar and Flood Safety Fair invitation to 5,400 Delta residents, almost all to the primary zone. The Flood Safety Fair was co-hosted by Discover the Delta and was held on October 25 at the Delta Farmers' Market in Isleton. It received good participation from information presenters, including first responders from throughout the Delta (City of Rio Vista Fire Department, Solano County Office of Emergency Services, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department), DWR, CA Conservation Corps, American

Red Cross, North Delta Water Agency, Dutra Museum of Dredging and the Commission, as well as general public attendees.

3. **DPC Land Use Comments:** As part of our responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), Commission staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects' consistency with the LURMP. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from September 16 through November 14, 2014.

LAND USE PROJECTS – COMMENT LETTERS PROVIDED September 16, 2014 to November 14, 2014						
County	Project	Substantial	Total Projects	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
Contra Costa	• Tesoro Avon Marine Oil Terminal Lease		1			
Sacramento	• City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Update		1			1
San Joaquin	• KOA Campgrounds Entertainment Permit		1	1		
Solano	NONE					
Yolo	NONE					
Multi-County	NONE					
<b>Totals</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>

4. **Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District:** The Commission released the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District request for proposals on September 16 and received no submitted proposals. Commission staff revised the request for proposals and released it again on October 20, with proposals due December 3. Specifically, provisions related to conflict of interest were clarified, a funding limit of \$250,000 was deleted (DWR has agreed to consider providing additional funding to complete this work subject to the receipt of a qualified proposal), and additional time was provided to allow proposals to be submitted. Commission staff understands that there are at least several proposals being developed for submittal, and we anticipate bringing the contract to the Commission for approval at the January 15 meeting. As a reminder, this work is being prepared under an agreement with DWR.
5. **Steve Mello Award:** Former Commissioner and Tyler Island farmer Steve Mello was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Sandhill Crane Festival Conservation Farmer Award at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Sandhill Crane Festival in Lodi. Steve was recognized for the wildlife-friendly farming practices that his family's Mello Farms have employed for two generations, including wetlands flooding for migratory birds and leaving crop stubble in their fields for high quality forage for cranes and other species.
6. **Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC):** The DPIIC, with Vice-Chair Piepho representing the Commission, meets on November 17 in Sacramento. As the lead agency to advise the Delta Stewardship Council on matters related to "preserving

the Delta as an evolving place" [Public Resources Code section 29703.5(a)] and in support of Delta Plan implementation, Commission staff will convene a working group of agencies responsible for implementing recommendations in the Delta Plan's related Chapter 5, as well as other activities that enhance and preserve unique Delta values, and report at future DPIIC meetings. For the November 17 meeting, I will also present on the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District.

7. **Proposition 1:** With the approval of Proposition 1 by voters, Commission staff will be working to ensure that the funding designated for Delta projects (funding for the Delta Conservancy, Delta restoration funding for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta levees funding for DWR and Central Valley Flood Protection Board) provides maximum benefit to the Delta and advances both the Land Use and Resource Management Plan and the Economic Sustainability Plan. The Delta Conservancy is required to consult with the Commission on its grants in the Delta. Staff anticipates development of a consultation process in collaboration with the Conservancy in the near future, and invites Commissioner input.

#### Administrative Update

1. **DPC Staffing:** DPC was sad to say farewell to Commission Clerk Bree Kaminskas, who ended her work with the Commission on October 29 to take a position with the Department of Public Health; we'll miss her but are glad for the new opportunities afforded her at Public Health. The Commission will be recruiting a permanent replacement for the Commission Clerk position in the coming months.

We are also pleased to welcome Jann Bullock as our interim Commission Clerk and to assist with contract efforts. Jann is a retired annuitant with experience at the Department of General Services and CA State Parks, and has already provided a seamless transition to Bree's work. We are still working to recruit a suitable candidate for the Delta Program Manager I staff position to manage the levee assessment district project, Land Use and Resource Management Plan update and Economic Sustainability Plan update, among other responsibilities.

2. **Strategic Planning:** The Strategic Planning subcommittee appointed at the last Commission meeting is meeting on November 18 in Oakley to review a working draft of the Strategic Plan. I expect there to be a detailed discussion of the draft Strategic Plan at the January Commission meeting.

#### Upcoming Delta Events

- Delta Reflections Lighted Boat Parade – December 6 at Tower Park Marina
- Bethel Island Lighted Boat Parade – December 13 at San Joaquin Yacht Club
- Christmas Boat Parade – December 13 at Discovery Bay Yacht Club
- Lighted Boat Parade – December 13 at Pittsburg Yacht Club
- Delta Protection Commission meeting – January 15, 2015 in Stockton (proposed)